

City of San Diego Public Utilities
COMMERCIAL - MULTIFAMILY OUTDOOR WATER CONSERVATION REBATE PROGRAM

Micro-Irrigation Rebate Guidelines
Rebate -- \$0.20 per Square Foot (up to 5,000 SF& \$1,000)

Reduce outdoor water use, keep landscape more attractive and healthy and save money on the water bill by upgrading overhead spray irrigation systems to micro-irrigation. City of San Diego Public Utilities Department commercial and multifamily (greater than four units) customers can receive a rebate for upgrading to micro-irrigation. Funding for a limited number of rebates is available through a State of California grant and will be distributed on a first come, first served basis until exhausted. This program is subject to change without prior notification. Read below for program requirements and application process. Rebate check will be sent to the customer of record 6-8 weeks after application and post-installation site visit are successfully completed. If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please call 619-533-7485 or e-mail waterconservationrebates@sandiego.gov.

Applicant's water account must be in good standing and program requirements must be met to be eligible for rebates. Customer must agree to and sign the application agreement before rebate is administered. Changes made related to rebate program must comply with all applicable laws, codes, policies, covenants, conditions, and restrictions. Please consult with a tax advisor if you have questions regarding any potential tax implications of your rebate.



Rebate Process

1. **Get an application...** Visit the [City's Water Conservation website](#) to download the Commercial Outdoor Rebate Program Application.
2. **Get a pre-site inspection...** Contact the Water Conservation Program at 619-570-1999 to schedule a free commercial landscape inspection. A City Water Conservation Program representative will conduct the inspection prior to installation of micro-irrigation.
3. **Install micro-irrigation and send in application...** Purchase and install low application rate micro-irrigation components. Complete the application and send it to the Water Conservation Program along with the original retail sales receipts and/or any original invoices from your landscape professional, and a copy of the water bill.
4. **Have a post-installation site visit...** After application is received, a City scheduler will call you to set up a post installation site-visit. A Water Conservation Program representative completes site visit to verify square footage converted and that the system is properly installed.
5. **Receive a rebate...** Once application is deemed complete and post-installation site visit is successfully completed please allow 6-8 weeks for the rebate to arrive in the mail.

Program Requirements:

- Convert existing in-ground and operable overhead spray irrigation for planter beds (not lawns) to micro-irrigation and receive \$0.20 for every SF converted. Rebate amount will not exceed total cost of the qualified components, up to a maximum of 5,000 SF and \$1,000 per property.
- At least 1,000 SF of landscape area must be converted from overhead spray to micro-irrigation.
- The entire irrigation valve (station) must be converted to micro-irrigation and must have a backflow prevention device. To properly reduce the pressure of the new low-volume system, entire zone must be converted and fitted with a pressure regulator at the individual valve, or a pressure compensating device must be included at each retrofitted sprinkler head. A filter is required either at the valve or at each individual head that is retrofitted with a micro-irrigation emitter.
- Drip, micro-spray, in-line tubing, or other low-volume micro-irrigation components that are rated in gallons per hour from any manufacturer are acceptable.
- A commercial landscape pre-site inspection conducted by a Water Conservation Program representative is required prior to installation of micro-irrigation. A post-installation site visit is required to verify square footage and proper installation of the system.
- Submittal of original sales receipt(s) from the vendor along with the completed rebate application is required. Do-it-yourself labor costs are not eligible for rebate. Total rebate amount will not exceed the cost of the device and installation. Receipts for micro-irrigation components must include vendor name, purchase date, price, make and model #s. An itemized receipt that includes descriptive names of products is highly recommended when buying numerous micro-irrigation components. Itemized lists are usually available when paying for products at the "Contractor's Check-Out Desk" in retail stores. If system was installed professionally, original invoice from landscape professional (including contractor license #, date and cost of service, cost of components and service description) must be submitted.



What is micro-irrigation?

Micro-irrigation, also known as drip irrigation, saves water and fertilizer by delivering water to plants through a network of valves, pipes, tubing, and emitters. Micro-irrigation systems deliver water much more slowly and precisely (flow rates in gallons per hour) than overhead sprinkler systems, which distribute water to the entire planter bed at much higher flow rates (in gallons per minute).

Benefits of converting to micro-irrigation.

- Increased water application efficiency.
- Minimized fertilizer/nutrient loss due to localized application and reduced leaching.
- Effective in irrigating irregular shaped fields.
- Minimized soil erosion, overspray, evaporation, and runoff.
- Foliage remains dry thus reducing the risk of disease.

How much water can micro-irrigation save?

Annual water savings resulting from the conversion of overhead sprinkler systems to micro-irrigation is estimated at 9 gallons per SF of irrigated area.

Costs that are covered by the micro-irrigation rebate.

Costs associated with purchase of any drip, micro-spray, in-line tubing, or other irrigation components rated in gallons per hour from any manufacturer are eligible for rebate. Total rebate amount will not exceed the cost of the micro-irrigation components and installation. Do-it-yourself labor costs are not eligible for rebate. To verify that costs of micro-irrigation components and installation do not exceed rebate amount, original sales receipt from the vendor and any original installation service invoices from licensed landscape contractor must be submitted with the application.

Rebate rate is \$0.20 per SF of landscape area converted, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per site. Rebate will be pro-rated based on total SF converted and verified at post installation site visit. For example, the rebate amount for conversion of a 3,500 SF area: $\$0.20 \times 3500 \text{ SF} = \700 .

